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**COPY OF A LETTER
ADOPTED AT A MEETING
HELD IN
BERRY STREET VESTRY**

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For Mr. Gamble
Weybridge
Mass.

PLEASE KEEP THIS "MICRO-CHAMBER" PAPER WITH THE
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COPY OF A LETTER

ADOPTED AT A MEETING HELD IN BERRY STREET VESTRY, APRIL 11, 1844, TO BE
OFFERED FOR SIGNATURE TO THE UNITARIAN CLERGY OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND SENT WITH THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO SIGN IT, ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS :

*To the Unitarian Ministers of Great Britain and Ireland, who signed an Address
to "their Ministerial Brethren of the Unitarian Churches in the United States
of North America," dated Dec. 1, 1843.*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,

We have received your letter relating to Slavery, a subject of deep and fearful interest to us all. In our political relations, it is threatening to upheave the very foundations of our government, while it draws its dark line through the land, and painfully divides the members of a great and otherwise united people, on a point touching the dearest interests of man.

In its moral and religious bearings, we cannot look upon it without feeling sick at heart. It is a curse pressing every year more heavily upon society; and as we believe in the righteous retributions of heaven, so we verily believe that, unless we do all that we can to purge it away, it must bring upon us the sorest calamities that in the providence of God can fall upon a nation. So far there is no difference of feeling or opinion among us. We all believe that there is something for us to do. But how shall we act? Slavery, in its more extended influences and relations, is so woven into our whole social organization, that the question is one not only of solemn interest, but of great difficulty, requiring of us the most earnest and prayerful thought. And as we must answer to a higher tribunal than that of man, so must we be faithful, each to his own convictions.

As it respects any direct political action for the abolition of slavery, except in the District of Columbia and the Territories not yet admitted as Independent States, it may not be known to you that the citizens of the free States have no more right to interfere than the citizens of Great Britain. As a political body, each separate State has the entire control of this matter within itself, and is exceedingly jealous of any interference from without.

In addition therefore to what we can do for a correct public sentiment in the free States, our only appeal is to the consciences and hearts of our brethren whose misfortune it has been to inherit, by whose guilt it will be, if, without strong and earnest struggles they consent to uphold, an institution which, from the dreadful wrong it inflicts on master and slave, must be unblessed of God and a curse to man.

We ask for ourselves and we ask for them the counsel and the sympathy of all Christian men; and we trust that the wise and holy efforts of all will second our efforts and our prayers, that Slavery will no longer stain our national character and threaten the ruin of our Republic. Our faith is strong, and

while we see cause for penitence and sorrowful forebodings, we have also a bright assurance that if we are true, He who maketh the wrath of man to praise Him, will in his own good time point out to us a way of deliverance.

With sincere regard,

Your brethren in the faith and hopes of the Gospel of Christ,

A true Copy,

Attest,

SAMUEL MAY, *Secretary of the Meeting.*

Samuel Clarke
Usebridge, Mass.

Boston, April 22d, 1844.

DEAR SIR :

In obedience to a vote passed at the above-mentioned meeting, we send you a copy of the foregoing letter. If disposed to sign it, please affix your name and return it to either of the undersigned at an early day. If possible we wish to despatch an engrossed copy to England by the steamer which leaves on the 16th of May. If not disposed to sign it you need not return it.

Truly and affectionately your friends,

S. K. LOTHROP,
CALEB STETSON,
JAMES W. THOMPSON, } *Committee.*

PLEASE CLOSE THIS FLAP FIRST

